



# MDRS

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT  
OF  
REHABILITATION SERVICES

2012 ANNUAL REPORT



## DEAR GOVERNOR BRYANT AND MEMBERS OF THE MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE:

On behalf of the citizens with disabilities we serve, let me sincerely thank you for the support you have given the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services (MDRS). We are making great strides in serving Mississippians with disabilities and you are certainly a part of every success story that we have. We are continually working to improve our services to consumers and develop partnerships with other agencies, consumer groups, and businesses.

At MDRS, we provide a quality program of comprehensive rehabilitation services, independent living services, and disability determination services for people with disabilities that will result in social and economic independence, employment opportunities, improved quality of life, and integration into the community. The Office of Special Disability Programs continues to increase home and community based services to our consumers. The Offices of Vocational Rehabilitation and Vocational Rehabilitation for the Blind have continued to meet or exceed all federal standards and indicators prescribed by the Rehabilitation Services Administration. The Office of Disability Determination Services continued to process a phenomenal number of cases with a 97% accuracy rate and one of the best processing times in the country.

At MDRS, we are always working to serve Mississippians with disabilities in a timely and effective manner, mindful of our consumers' needs and concerns. It's been another great year and we look forward to continuing our partnerships to achieve great successes with the Mississippians we serve.

Sincerely,



H.S. "Butch" McMillan  
Executive Director

# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

## Disability Determination Services

We determine the medical eligibility of individuals with disabilities to receive benefits from Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) directed by federal guidelines from the Social Security Administration.

## Special Disability Programs

We assist individuals with more severe disabilities by providing supports which allow them to continue to live or move toward living independently in the home or community. *During 2012, the Office of Special Disability Programs (OSDP) provided independent living services for **3,801** individuals with significant (severe) disabilities.*

## Vocational Rehabilitation Services

We help over 20,000 Mississippians a year overcome limitations imposed by physical or mental disabilities in order for that person to secure or maintain employment. *In 2012, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VR) assisted **21,546** Mississippians with disabilities in receiving services including, but not limited to: counseling and guidance in adjustment to disability, vocational exploration, physical and mental restoration, job training, assistive technology, and job placement.* Individuals served by VR have a wide array of disabilities including: hearing loss or deafness, amputations, mental and emotional disorders, epilepsy, developmental disease and disorders, traumatic brain injuries, orthopedic impairments, residuals from cancer, and speech impairments to name a few. *The total number of successful employment outcomes for our VR consumers in 2012 was **4,559**.*

## Vocational Rehabilitation Services for the Blind

We specialize in working with individuals who are blind or visually impaired to ensure opportunities for inclusion into the workforce, community, and home. *In 2012, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (VRB) served **1,975** consumers who received services such as counseling and guidance in adjustment to disability, vocational exploration, orientation and mobility training, job training, and assistive technology. In 2012, the Addie McBryde Center provided personal adjustment services and training to **143** consumers.*

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**AbilityWorks, Inc.** - AbilityWorks is a network of 16 community rehabilitation programs providing vocational assessment, job training, and actual work experience for individuals with disabilities. This is possible through a wide array of contract and subcontract services provided to local business and industry. Some of the services and products AbilityWorks offers include collating and sorting, packaging and handling, assembly work, product reworking, product reclamation, grounds maintenance, housekeeping and quality reviews. *During FFY 2012, AbilityWorks served a total of **2,952** MDRS clients, resulting in **874** successful employment outcomes.* An AbilityWorks' community-based program, Linking Innovative Networks of Community Services (LINCS) establishes cooperative agreements with local businesses to provide the evaluation, job readiness or job training for our consumers. *In 2012, each month an average of **100** consumers received training through LINCS.*

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

**Assistive Technology** - We provide evaluations and assessments for MDRS consumers to help assure maximum access to technology available for individuals with disabilities.

**Business Enterprise Program** - The Business Enterprise Program (BEP) provides support for self-employment opportunities in the food service industry for Mississippians who are legally blind. These BEP entrepreneurs operate a variety of businesses including vending machine routes, snack bars and cafeterias on military bases. *In 2012, **thirty eight (38)** individuals operated successful businesses as BEP vendors.*

**Deaf Services** - We help people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or late deafened find employment, attend education and training programs, and learn more about their community resources. Rehabilitation Counselors for the Deaf (RCDs) possess required communication skills level on the Signed Communication Proficiency Interview (SCPI), an American Sign Language assessment developed by the Rochester Institute of Technology. *This skill, along with other specialized training, has been a vital factor in the successful rehabilitation of **885** persons with deafness or significant hearing loss. In addition, 5 staff interpreters are available to assist consumers and staff members and use American Sign Language to insure maximum accessibility throughout the rehabilitation process.*

**Independent Living Services for the Blind** - We serve individuals who are legally blind and either over the age of 55 or have a significant secondary disability by providing a variety of independent living services. *In 2012, the Independent Living Program for the Blind provided services to **602** consumers. Furthermore, in 2012, Itinerant Teachers were provided for **90** consumers.*

**Supported Employment** - We assist individuals with the most significant disabilities who require intensive support services to prepare for, secure, retain, or regain employment. Each MDRS district has a Supported Employment Team consisting of a specialized VR/SE counselor, and a Vocational Training Instructor who oversees the work of Job Trainers working on site with our consumers. *During 2012, **917** individuals received Supported Employment services, **74** resulting in successful employment.*

**Transition Services** - We work with eligible secondary school students with disabilities, their families, and school personnel to assure there is an integrated program of education and vocational training available to provide a seamless transition from school to work. *In 2012, the number of students receiving transition services was **3,162**. Successful employment outcomes resulted for **447** students.* Examples of transition services are vocational-technical training, vocational evaluation, work adjustment training, on the job training, job search skills, and work experience programs. These services may be available to students both on and off campus or at one of the 16 AbilityWorks as a part of their school day.



# IN DEPTH LOOK AT VR & VRB IN 2012

## PERSONS SERVED BY PRIMARY DISABILITY

PRIMARY DISABILITY	NUMBER SERVED
Cognitive and Mental .....	7,936
General Physical .....	6,711
Hearing Loss, Communicative .....	2,800
Orthopedic .....	1,536
Legally Blind, Other Visual .....	1,888
Deafness .....	323
Blindness .....	109
Respiratory .....	114
Application Status .....	110
Deaf-Blindness .....	18
No Impairment .....	1
Total .....	21,492

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## EMPLOYMENT IN INTEGRATED SETTINGS

OCCUPATION	NUMBER EMPLOYED
Executive/Managerial .....	149
Laborer .....	419
Operative .....	234
Professional .....	354
Sales .....	500
Secretarial/Office/Clerical .....	417
Service Worker .....	1,121
Skilled Craft .....	505
Technical/Paraprofessional .....	72
Total .....	3,771

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## AVERAGE COST OF SERVICES PER CLIENT

\$6,853.37

# IN DEPTH LOOK AT VR & VRB IN 2012

## DEMOGRAPHICS OF PERSONS SERVED

GENDER		PERCENTAGE
Male	.....	52.30
Female	.....	47.70
AGE AT APPLICATION		PERCENTAGE
10 and under	.....	0.02
10 - 20	.....	7.71
20 - 30	.....	26.37
30 - 40	.....	16.55
40 - 50	.....	18.22
50 - 60	.....	18.50
60 - 70	.....	9.46
70 - 80	.....	2.61
80 - 90	.....	0.53
90 - 100	.....	0.03
Average Age at Application		40
EDUCATION LEVEL AT APPLICATION		PERCENTAGE
No Formal Schooling	.....	0.01
Elementary Education (Grades 1-8)	.....	3.40
Secondary Education, no high school diploma	.....	19.66
High School Graduate or Equivalency Certificate	.....	35.30
Post-Secondary Education, no degree	.....	14.48
AA degree or Vocational Technology Certificate	.....	6.86
Bachelor's degree	.....	5.57
Master's degree or higher	.....	1.84
Special Education (completion or attendance)	.....	12.77
RACE		PERCENTAGE
American Indian or Alaskan Native	.....	1.28
Asian	.....	0.36
Black or African American	.....	44.60
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	.....	0.29
Hispanic or Latino	.....	0.98
White or Caucasian	.....	52.49

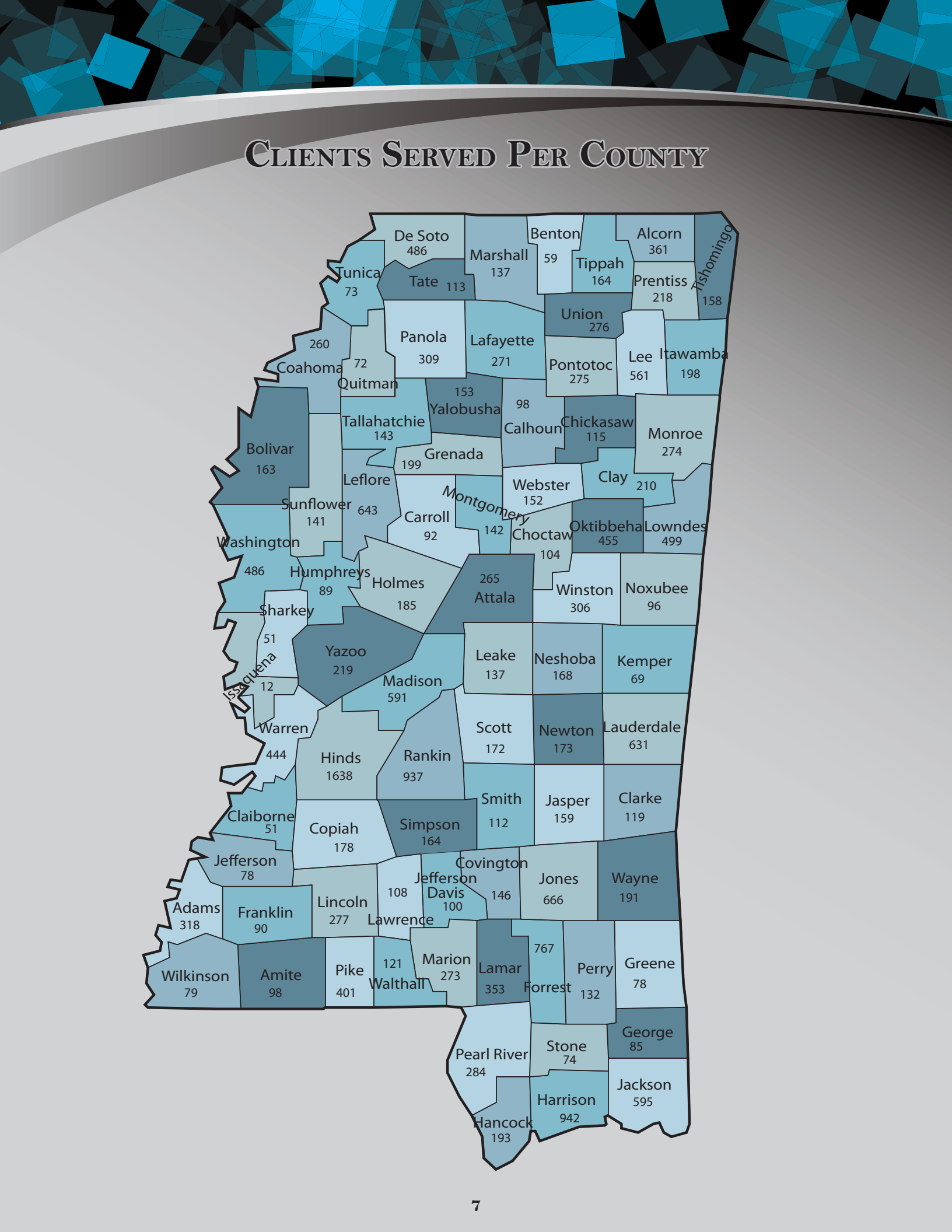
# VR & VRB STANDARDS AND INDICATORS REPORT

Standards	Goal	Actual	Met/ Unmet
Number of Closed Cases with an Employment Outcome	4,559	4,559	Met
Of the Closed Cases that received services, the percentage with an Employment Outcome	55.8%	70.9%	Met
Of the Closed Cases with an Employment Outcome, the percentage that have a wage greater than or equal to the Minimum Wage	72.6%	99.7%	Met
Of the Closed Cases with an Employment Outcome, the percentage that have a wage greater than or equal to the Minimum Wage and have Significant Disabilities	62.4%	65.6%	Met
Ratio of Average State Wage to the average wage of Closed Cases with Employment Outcome that have wages greater than or equal to Minimum Wage	0.52	0.86	Met
Difference between the percentage of Closed Cases with Employment Outcomes that have a wage greater than or equal to the Minimum Wage that are Self-Support at Application and the percentage of Closed Cases with Employment Outcomes that have a wage greater than or equal to the Minimum Wage that are Self-Support at Closure	53.0	61.0	Met
Ratio of Minority Service Rate to Non-Minority Service Rate	0.80	0.851	Met

## CLIENTS SERVED PER COUNTY

A map of Mississippi divided into its 39 counties. Each county is labeled with its name and the number of clients served. The counties and their respective client counts are: De Soto (486), Marshall (137), Benton (59), Alcorn (361), Tunica (73), Tate (113), Tippah (164), Prentiss (218), Coahoma (260), Panola (309), Lafayette (271), Union (276), Quitman (72), Pontotoc (275), Lee (561), Itawamba (198), Bolivar (163), Tallahatchie (143), Yalobusha (153), Calhoun (98), Chickasaw (115), Monroe (274), Sunflower (141), Leflore (199), Grenada (152), Webster (152), Clay (210), Washington (486), Carroll (92), Montgomery (142), Choctaw (104), Oktibbeha (455), Lowndes (499), Humphreys (89), Holmes (185), Attala (265), Winston (306), Noxubee (96), Sharkey (51), Yazoo (219), Leake (137), Neshoba (168), Kemper (69), Issaquena (12), Madison (591), Scott (172), Newton (173), Lauderdale (631), Warren (444), Hinds (1638), Rankin (937), Smith (112), Jasper (159), Clarke (119), Claiborne (51), Copiah (178), Simpson (164), Covington (146), Jones (666), Wayne (191), Jefferson (78), Adams (318), Franklin (90), Lincoln (277), Lawrence (108), Jefferson Davis (100), Marion (273), Lamar (353), Perry (132), Greene (78), Wilkinson (79), Amite (98), Pike (401), Waltham (121), Hancock (193), Pearl River (284), Stone (74), George (85), Jackson (595), and Harrison (942).

County	Clients Served
De Soto	486
Marshall	137
Benton	59
Alcorn	361
Tunica	73
Tate	113
Tippah	164
Prentiss	218
Coahoma	260
Panola	309
Lafayette	271
Union	276
Quitman	72
Pontotoc	275
Lee	561
Itawamba	198
Bolivar	163
Tallahatchie	143
Yalobusha	153
Calhoun	98
Chickasaw	115
Monroe	274
Sunflower	141
Leflore	199
Grenada	152
Webster	152
Clay	210
Washington	486
Carroll	92
Montgomery	142
Choctaw	104
Oktibbeha	455
Lowndes	499
Humphreys	89
Holmes	185
Attala	265
Winston	306
Noxubee	96
Sharkey	51
Yazoo	219
Leake	137
Neshoba	168
Kemper	69
Issaquena	12
Madison	591
Scott	172
Newton	173
Lauderdale	631
Warren	444
Hinds	1638
Rankin	937
Smith	112
Jasper	159
Clarke	119
Claiborne	51
Copiah	178
Simpson	164
Covington	146
Jones	666
Wayne	191
Jefferson	78
Adams	318
Franklin	90
Lincoln	277
Lawrence	108
Jefferson Davis	100
Marion	273
Lamar	353
Perry	132
Greene	78
Wilkinson	79
Amite	98
Pike	401
Waltham	121
Hancock	193
Pearl River	284
Stone	74
George	85
Jackson	595
Harrison	942





# IN DEPTH LOOK AT DDS & OSDP IN 2012

## OFFICE OF DISABILITY DETERMINATION SERVICES

Claims Processed .....	99,707
Average Processing Time .....	93 Days
Average Cost Per Case .....	\$279.00
Accuracy Rate .....	97%

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## OFFICE OF SPECIAL DISABILITY PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

PROGRAM	NUMBER SERVED
Independent Living Waiver .....	2,697
TBI/SCI Trust Fund .....	268
TBI/SCI Waiver .....	836

# MDRS EXECUTIVE SUPPORT TEAM



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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PROGRAM INTEGRITY

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